



January 24, 2014

This week's edition includes important information I want to share with you:

- **Middle Tennessee Community Homes (MTCH):** On January 18, families of the people residing at Clover Bottom Developmental Center (CBDC) gathered with CBDC and DIDD leadership to review preparations for the opening of the first four (4) Middle TN homes. The homes are located in the Hermitage area in Davidson County and are slated to open this Spring. Each home will be operated by DIDD to support four people. Families are giving input on the décor and features of the homes to ensure they meet person-specific needs and preferences. A tour of the homes followed the meeting and family members expressed excitement over their loved ones moving into a home of their own in the community. Five other homes will be constructed by 2015 in the Donelson and Wilson County areas.
- **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule:** On January 10, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule on HCBS that includes the definition of community settings. The final rule addresses several sections of Medicaid law under which states may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for HCBS. In materials accompanying the rule, CMS stated its “intent to ensure that individuals receiving services and supports through Medicaid’s HCBS programs have full access to the benefits of community living and are able to receive services in the most integrated setting.”

The final rule requires that all home and community-based settings meet certain qualifications. These include:

- The setting is integrated in and supports full access to the greater community;
- Is selected by the individual from among setting options;
- Ensures individual rights of privacy, dignity and respect and freedom from coercion and restraint;
- Optimizes autonomy and independence in making life choices; and
- Facilitates choice regarding services and who provides them

The final rule also includes additional requirements for provider-owned or controlled home and community-based residential settings. These include:

- The individual has a lease or other legally enforceable agreement providing similar protections;
- The individual has privacy in their unit including lockable doors, choice of roommates and freedom to furnish or decorate the unit;
- The individual controls his/her own schedule including access to food at any time;
- The individual can have visitors at any time; and
- The setting is physically accessible

To view the entire final rule and a CMS fact sheet, click [here](#). The change CMS is currently undertaking clearly articulates the direction they seek to take with respect to integrated employment in the community. The department along with its partner agencies, has been working persistently to provide the most safe and effective quality services leading to integrated employment outcomes in the community. This rule clearly supports our *Employment First* initiative and we anticipate additional regulations (expected in Spring 2014), will further sustain our efforts.

- **Provider Agreement Amendments Still Outstanding:** Signed amendments to all provider agreements are required by federal law and TennCare rules to be completed in order to provide Medicaid reimbursable services. To date, several providers have not returned this amendment. Please see the attached letter from Deputy Commissioner Lance Iverson on this subject. Copies of this letter are also being sent via mail to all providers who have not yet sent in their signed provider agreement amendment.
- **Dental Hygiene Training:** Within the Relias Management Learning System, there is a course available on *Dental and Oral Health for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities* that reviews dental hygiene training. The course offers good material for hands-on caregivers assisting with activities of daily living (ADLs), as good oral care is vital to optimal health for everyone. While the course is an excellent reference for agencies, it is not to replace any type of individual personal hygiene plans that have been developed for persons supported. If you have questions or need assistance in accessing the course, please contact the help desk at [DIDD.ISQA@tn.gov](mailto:DIDD.ISQA@tn.gov).
- **Supported Employment and Facility Based Employment Research:** Dr. Robert Cimera is an Associate Professor in Special Education at Kent State University. His research expertise involves evaluation of the monetary costs and benefits of employment programs for persons with disabilities. He has conducted numerous longitudinal cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency studies on supported employment and sheltered workshops from the perspective of workers with disabilities, taxpayers, funding sources and society. In addition to researching ways of improving vocational outcomes for persons with disabilities while reducing costs to funding sources, he has also developed a cost-accounting methodology that compares the economic expenditures experienced by employers who hire workers with and without disabilities. Dr. Cimera conducted research comparing the cost of services for Supported Employment and Facility Based Employment. The information contained in his PowerPoint (attached to this edition), clearly articulates the fact that a significant amount of dollars is spent in sheltered employment as opposed to Supported Employment. Dr. Cimera concluded that regardless of disability or its severity, Supported Employment has a better Return on Investment than sheltered work settings. Furthermore, the information also supports that beginning transition services at age 14 significantly increases a person's probability of obtaining employment. If interested in additional information, please contact Amy Gonzalez, DIDD State Director of Employment and Day Services, at [Amy.Gonzalez@tn.gov](mailto:Amy.Gonzalez@tn.gov).
- **DIDD Training Update:** On January 27, Relias will launch the SHARE functionality feature for all sub-portal agencies. Attached, is a copy of the letter with information and instructions on how learners can set up a master account linking all training completed in CDS and Relias systems. A recorded webinar on the SHARE functionality is also available [here](#). Please scroll to the bottom of the page and select the last webinar.

For agencies who log into Relias using the generic web address without a sub-portal name embedded (i.e., <http://tndidd.training.reliaslearning.com> ), learners may need an alternate User

ID to be created in each agency for SHARE to work hierarchy to hierarchy. The following are DIDD approved alternate User ID naming conventions:

First initial first name + entire last name + last four of social security number (jdoe1234)

Last 4 of social + first initial first name + entire last name (1234jdoe)- 1<sup>st</sup> alternate ID

First initial first name + last four of social + entire last name (j1234doe)- 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate ID

First name + last 4 SSN + last name (john1234doe)- 3<sup>rd</sup> alternate ID

First name + last name + last four of social security number (johndoe1234)- 4<sup>th</sup> alternate ID

When new staff are entered into Relias, try the approved alternate ID naming conventions in the order listed above. If you try all four and still get an error message, contact the [DIDD.ISQA@tn.gov](mailto:DIDD.ISQA@tn.gov) help desk for assistance.

**Be safe and have a great weekend!**

~Debbie